

# Idaho Judicial Branch's Response to COVID-19

Justice Robyn M. Brody

May 19, 2020

Young Lawyers Section



# Role and Mission of the Supreme Court

# Idaho Constitution

## Article V, § 2

The judicial power of the state shall be vested in a court for the trial of impeachments, a Supreme Court, district courts, and such other courts inferior to the Supreme Court as established by the legislature....

**The courts shall constitute a unified and integrated judicial system for administration and supervision by the Supreme Court....**

# MISSION

As the Third Branch of Government, We  
Provide Access to Justice by Ensuring  
Fair Processes and the Timely,  
Impartial Resolution of Cases.

# Court Administration

# Administrative Office of the Courts

Administrative Director of  
the Courts

Created by statute to support  
the Idaho Supreme Court in  
completing its administrative  
duties

Appointed by the Supreme  
Court and serves at the  
Court's pleasure

- Court Management Division
  - Business Processes
  - Court Records Access
  - Data and Reporting
  - Education
- Finance and Operations Division
- Human Resources Division
- Information Division
- Justice Services Division
  - Problem Solving Courts
  - Children and Families in the Courts
- Legal Services

# Idaho's District Courts

Number of judges per district is established by statute – Currently 45

Elected by electors of the district for a four-year term

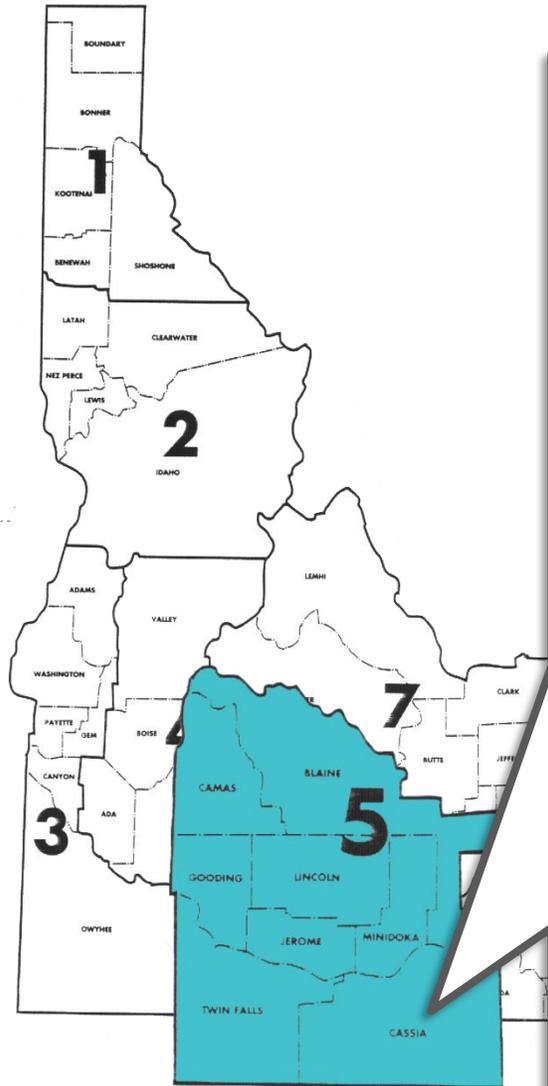
Each district judge has resident chambers in a particular county as defined in statute and must actually reside in that county



# Administrative District Judge

- Elected by the District Judges of the district for a four year term
- Has administrative supervision and authority over the operation of the district courts and magistrates in the district
- Duties Include:
  - Arranging schedules and assigning judges
  - Supervising Calendars
  - Supervising clerks
  - Assigning matters to magistrates
  - Prescribing times and places at which magistrates shall be available
  - Arranging for the drawing of juries
  - Acting as chairman of the district Magistrate Commission
  - Appointing personnel to attend to the courts

# Idaho's 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District



Administrative District Judge  
Trial Court Administrator  
Supreme Court Employees  
Court Reporters  
District Managers  
Guardianship Monitors  
Elected Clerks  
District Court Staff  
Deputy Clerks  
Judicial Assistants  
Coordinators

# Court Changes

# Guiding Principles

- Statewide Perspective
  - Local flexibility (different needs/different capabilities)
- Constant Communication and Evaluation
  - AOC
  - Administrative District Judges and Trial Court Administrators
  - Idaho State Bar
  - County Clerks
  - Executive Branch
  - National organizations
    - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
    - Conference of Chief Justices
    - Conference of State Court Administrators
    - National Center for State Courts
- Responsive/Flexible/Creative
  - Changing needs
  - Changing capabilities – IT Division

# KEEPING TRACK OF THE CHANGES

<https://isc.idaho.gov/Emergency%20Orders>

# The Future

- YouTube Streaming – Public Access
- Jury trials – low tech solutions